Gilyak, chukchee

101 563 [342] earth dwellings must have been the original winter dwelling of the Paleoasiatics. Even today the Gilyak on the northern coast of Sakhalin live in such earthen caves. The Gilyak on the Amur live at present in primitively built Chinese mud huts. The summer dwelling consists of a tent built on poles partly for protection against floods and further for reasons of better /108/ ventilation. This type of pile dwelling is [171] not to be encountered among any Tungus people; it, however, still exists today among the Kamchadal, who are likewise a Paleoasiatic people. The sole domestic animal is the dog. The Gilyak dog sled, [493] the narta, is built out of birchwood and is very light. The dogs are not harnessed in pairs but individually, and they don't pull with their chest but with their neck. The main food of the Gilyak is fish dried [262] in the air, which they name "ma." Today they also use the same word for bread. They like very much to eat dog and bear meat too. [141] A few decades ago they still were using only bows, arrows, and lances for hunting. Even today they wear on the right index finger--now, of course, as decoration--a metal ring, which formerly served to pro- [523] tect the finger from the stretching of the bow. Group marriage was still customary among the Gilyak in 1905. In their spiritual life, [776] worship of the bear plays a large role; this is a common mark of all Paleoasiatic peoples. Worship of the bear is also practised among the Tungus, but not so markedly; and even among the Russian occupants of the taiga this custom has not remained without influence. Of the Ainu only a part live on Sakhalin; the great majority live on the northern Japanese islands.

The Paleoasiatics in the northeast fall into two groups. The western group consists of the Chukchee, Koryak, and Kamchadal, who are closely related to one another; the eastern group consists of the Asiatic Eskimo and the Aleut. When the Russians first encountered the Paleoasiatic peoples here in the far north, they were still in part on the cultural level of the Stone Age and used stone hachets, stone knives, and weapons with bone points. Even today they show many ancient traits.

The Chukchee or Luoravetlan occupy the peninsula named after them. Some of them are settled on seacoasts and pursue fishing and the hunting of sea animals; some, living as reindeer nomads, [342] traverse the tundra-covered peninsula. A large pointed tent with a round base serves as a dwelling for both groups. It consists of poles placed together and covered with reindeer skins or walrus hides; on the outside down below they are weighted down with stones. The